

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~
Security Information

THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

Reference: 1) Appended letter dated 14 November 1952 to Mr. Roger W. Jones, Assistant Director for Legislative Reference, Bureau of the Budget from Lawrence R. Houston, General Counsel.

2) Appended proposed Executive Order.

1. Reference to the above enumerated documents furnishes the present status of the National Security Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

2. This award will eliminate distinction between valor and achievement (as recommended in the Honor Awards Program transmitted on 3 September 1952) and will provide the senior decoration for award to any individual who has made an outstandingly important contribution to U. S. intelligence either in the U. S. or overseas. It is envisaged that this decoration would be awarded only for valor or achievement of such nature as to be clearly outstanding. In preparing criteria for its award high level accomplishment would be stressed rather than the performance of specific feats of valor or other achievement. Thus, in the discretion of the CIA Honor Awards Board it could (and should) be used to recognize both valor and achievement.

3. It is recommended that:

- a. This medal, if established, be awarded to CIA personnel or other persons who perform distinguished service in behalf of United States intelligence.
- b. The Heraldic Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, be requested to prepare appropriate designs and models for the above.
- c. The CIA Honor Awards Board prepare and promulgate criteria governing the award of the National Security Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

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TAB B

C O P Y

14 November 1952

Mr. Roger W. Jones
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

We are enclosing herewith the draft Executive Order establishing the National Security Medal for Distinguished Achievement. We have classified this draft "confidential" for purposes of handling only. You will note that we have amended the draft to exclude any reference to the Director of Central Intelligence. However, we wish that the Director control the award of this decoration and request that he be so authorized by the President. We enclose a draft of a suggested letter of authorization to prescribe regulations and make the awards. This letter further designates the Director as the one to approve the design of the medal.

With respect to the question which you have raised regarding the President's authority to issue this Executive Order, may we refer you to Executive Order 9586, dated July 6, 1945, published in CFR, 1945 Supp. page 96, establishing the Medal of Freedom. The President in that Order referred only to his vested authority as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief. It is our opinion that a recitation of this authority is adequate for purposes of the enclosed draft Order.

General Smith is very anxious to secure the approval of this Order as soon as possible. Any efforts which you are able to make in this connection will be greatly appreciated by us.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

Enclosure

TAB B